

2019-J503

Senate Resolution No. 503

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Donald Moffat, legendary actor, distinguished citizen and gifted artist

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay just tribute to the memory of those prominent individuals whose creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Donald Moffat, a beloved actor of stage, screen and television, died on Thursday, December 20, 2018, in Sleepy Hollow, New York, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Born in Plymouth, England, on December 26, 1930, Donald Moffat was the only child of Kathleen Mary (Smith) and Walter George Moffat; his parents ran a boarding house in Totnes, England; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his studies at the local King Edward VI School, Donald Moffat performed national service with the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1951; he went on to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London until 1954; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary stage, screen and television actor was a naturalized, thoroughly Americanized Englishman who in the early 1950s was a player with the Old Vic theater company, the London crucible of

many of Britain's most ambitious performing arts; and

WHEREAS, In 1956, at the age of 26, Donald Moffat realized his dream and moved to the United States, settling in Oregon, where he worked as a bartender and a lumberjack; he soon resolved to return to acting, and made his Broadway debut as two characters in "Under Milkwood" (1957); and

WHEREAS, Donald Moffat, in a career that lasted nearly a half-century, amassed virtually all of his remarkable 220 credits in the United States; his roles included 80 stage plays (he directed 10 more), approximately 70 Hollywood and television movies, and at least 60 television productions, including series, mini-series and anthologies; and

WHEREAS, A truly consummate professional, Donald Moffat could play any supporting role from Shakespeare, O'Neill, Ibsen, Beckett, Pinter or Shaw, as well as lawyers, doctors, husbands, and tough guys- characters who make the stars shine and place the accomplishments of the ensemble above personal glory; and

WHEREAS, Donald Moffat's motion picture credits include "Rachel, Rachel" (1968), "The Trial of the Catonsville Nine" (1972), "The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid" (1972), "Showdown" (1973), "Earthquake"(1974) and "Winter Kills" (1979); and

WHEREAS, Furthermore his most memorable film role was as the corrupt president in "Clear and Present Danger" (1994), a Harrison Ford movie based on the Tom Clancy novel; and

WHEREAS, During the 1990s, Donald Moffat slowed his working pace,

and tapered off into retirement a few years later; one of his last appearances, which gained high accolades, was of aging, penniless former President Ulysses S. Grant in an Off Broadway production of John Guare's "A Few Stout Individuals" (2002); and

WHEREAS, Donald Moffat is survived by his wife, Gwen Arner; his daughters, Lynn, Catherine, Kathleen (known as Wendy), and Gabriel; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to the lives of those extraordinary actors of world renown who enriched the lives of others through their artistic endeavors; such an actor was Donald Moffat, whose extraordinary and innovative career will forever live in the hearts of many and continue to inspire generations to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Donald Moffat, legendary actor, distinguished citizen and gifted artist; and to offer sincerest condolences to his fans, friends, and family members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Donald Moffat.